

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**JULY 11, 2018**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pete Frisina, Chairman  
James Preau, Vice Chairman  
Steve Rapson, County Administrator  
Lee Pope, Water System Director  
Commissioner Steve Brown

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:** Dennis Davenport, County Attorney  
Jason Bodwell, CH2M/Jacobs

**STAFF PRESENT:** Matt Bergen

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 8:00 A.M.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JUNE 27, 2018.**

Commissioner Steve Brown made the motion and Vice Chairman Jimmy Preau seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 27, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. LAKE MCINTOSH SPECIAL EVENTS.**

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

**III. CONSERVATION GRANT UPDATE.**

Mr. Pope commented that we are a sub grant under American Rivers. American Rivers applied for a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for several things they are doing within the Flint River Basin. We are going to get a sub part of that grant to assist us with our conservation efforts in educating our citizens on how they can better use their irrigation systems. We are going to go out and actually do audits; we are going to target the top users first, to try to help them minimize their water impact. Then Matt's group will actually be going out be doing the audits and implementing the technology.

Mr. Pope went on to say we are going to use this grant to purchase some of the equipment needed so that we can install it in the homes; we will let them install it, we won't be doing any installation. It is very similar to the toilet rebate program we offer and the packets we offer up front for customers. This will be targeting towards irrigation and things of that nature. American Rivers will handle all the reporting, it is their grant, they are just giving us a sub grant of some of those funds to get our conservation program kicked off so that we can start getting kits out to our customers. We know we have people over watering and over irrigating in the

summer months and that is part of the strain on the Flint River Basin because people are not irrigating properly. This will target the top users and then we will eventually ratchet it out to grow and hopefully take care of everybody.

Daphne was not able to be here this morning, she had to be in Human Resources, she has already run a report and we have those top targeted people. She has met with Matt. Mr. Bergen said basically, once they get clearance they are going to identify those people, set appointments with them, meet with them, find out what their usage is what it can be; and then get the devices in their hands to actually conserve the water.

Commissioner Brown asked what kind of devices we are talking about for irrigation systems. Mr. Bergen said he has not seen the kits yet. Mr. Pope said they are putting the kits together for us. Niagara Water has some things; the main thing is to make sure they are watering properly the right amount of time per day and not cutting it on and letting it run. A lot of them do have it timed by zones, but they are overwatering. They are watering daily.

Commissioner Brown said he has often thought about doing a proposal where we do some sort of ordinance that at the beginning of every spring or something like that (the growing season) that we go and look at these commercial irrigation systems. Half of them, a tractor trailer truck has run over three of the heads, making a turn into the parking lot and there's this gurgling water all over the parking lot and they don't even know it; and it is that way for months before somebody even discovers it.

Mr. Pope stated we will be bringing a Water Waste Ordinance before the Committee with help of the Metropolitan Water Planning District. It targets broken heads so you can go out and cite people for not getting those fixed in a timely manner, also if they are watering asphalt and concrete; make sure they get those adjusted so the water is going where it is supposed to. Commissioner Brown commented the spray direction on half of them is off. They are throwing water into a shrub and the grass is over on the right.

Mr. Pope said this grant will cover any of the technology that we roll out as well as staff's time. Further discussion pertained to the matching funds.

Commissioner Brown commented he is interested in seeing what they are proposing to do to mitigate irrigation leakage and see what the plan is.

This item was tabled until the next meeting when more information would be available.

#### **IV. WATER PLANT UPDATE.**

Mr. Pope stated we have several things going on, we have new task orders to start on projects for this year that we are working on with CH. We also met with

the integrator for the filter controls to find out what it is going to take to get the filter controls upgraded at the South Fayette Plant. That was part of the evaluation that we had a change order to do on the filters at South Fayette; to insure whether or not we needed to completely change everything out, do we need to completely do the under drains. It came they were in pretty good shape; we do need to add some media, we don't need to replace all the media, but we are going to have to top off the media, which is not uncommon. We are going to upgrade the controls. The reason we are going to upgrade the controls is because the current controls are becoming impossible to get parts for. He said when he met with the integrator they talked about the cards. What we do now is take the cards and send them off to have somebody rebuild them and send them back; which is working. The company that does our air said they are unable to get the chips now, so we are getting to the point where we can't even have them repair their own cards. We will be using the same company, but they will be giving us new controls. He said they are meeting with them, working through Leigh Jester as the lead with CH. He said he will be bringing that back to talk about what the actual cost will be to implement it.

Mr. Pope said we are still working with the vendor for the carbon at the Crosstown Plant because we are still having some issues with that feeder. Their engineer that designed their system has come up with some upgrades to the compressor system; the air dryer and such, he thinks it needs to have some insulation and they have ordered those parts. They will install them at their expense; they are not going to put any of that on us because they are trying to resolve their systems problems.

Mr. Pope said we are feeding carbon, but we are doing it one bag at a time right now. Commissioner Brown asked if they have other people using the system. Have they ever had a similar problem? Mr. Pope said no, we want to see one of the systems that is closer to us to try to see if we can figure out what is going on, but they do have these installed outdoors. He said his first question was outside, but they have them installed outside. What they think is happening is it is something to do with the compressor and the air is blowing moist air into the bag and therefore it is causing the carbon to clump up and not feed slow and smooth as it is supposed.

He said we are going to insulate the lines and look at maybe changing out the dryer, but that will all be at their expense. We are feeding carbon, we are just doing one bag at a time and it is not very efficient.

Mr. Pope said they met with Peachtree City on the spillway project, which is coming to a close. We will be painting the Peachtree City pump station next week. The painter had moved onto another project, when we originally had him scheduled to come because he couldn't paint because of the construction trailer, but that was moved out Monday and he is going to finish up the project he is on now based on weather permitting.

Commissioner Brown asked if dust is going to be a problem, because they are moving a lot of dirt. Mr. Pope said he thinks by next week that will be slowed down

a good bit. Mr. Rapson commented what is holding us up is they have to move their work trailer, and they are moving it this week. Mr. Pope said we will then replace one control stem on one of the pumps that has been identified as a problem when EPD was here before. It is just a stem that had gotten worn over the years; we are going to go ahead and replace that right now while we are out of service.

Mr. Rapson said the bad thing is Lake Peachtree is going to be lowered another six to eight feet because they have to cut a trench through the coffer dam to be able to hit the lower part of the spillway. Peachtree City and everybody is aware of that, but we are just filling the lake back up and the lake is actually looking like a lake now, and we are getting ready to drain it another eight feet. Commissioner Brown said he will get phone calls on that, too.

Mr. Rapson stated that we do not raise and lower the lake without the express request of the Peachtree City Mayor and Council. Commissioner Brown asked if the trim on the pump house had been checked, to make sure it is all sound, before it is painted. Mr. Pope replied some of it is going to have to be replaced before it is painted. Mr. Rapson said they will be using a crane during the process.

Jason Bodwell reported the PAC; sodium permanganate and chlorine dioxide chemical systems are kind of at a standstill waiting for the task orders to be signed to add sodium hypochlorite to it. Once that gets signed, they will start again and move all four of those chemicals forward toward the sixty percent completion mark and the hundred percent completion mark. He said we will have all four chemicals designed together moving forward.

Mr. Pope explained we will be doing some hydraulic modeling in the distribution system this year. We will be populating some of the drawings that we have. He said he met with Mr. Rapson and the CH group the other day so we could go ahead and get that started. It is essential that we get a map of our system at some point in time. We are going to start going into the first phases of linking our distribution system.

Mr. Bodwell mentioned the Tank Repair bid documents are out on the street. There is a pre-bid meeting next Thursday. He and Trina in Purchasing have been blasting the documents out to folks to get good coverage to make sure we get a lot of good competitive bids. Mr. Pope stated this bid will be a la carte so we can look at it. We know it is going to be a lot. Mr. Rapson said it will end up being a multi-year project. Mr. Pope said that is normal, because we could not possibly take all the tanks off line in one year anyway. So we will work that all in. Mr. Bodwell said a la carte is a good way to describe it; for all five tanks, they put an a la carte menu of all the different items, line items so we can pick and choose which ones we want to do and don't want to do. They are all going to be priced individually.

Mr. Pope said they will do a full clean out, we will definitely be cleaning the tanks and inspecting them, but anything identified, we want to make sure we take care of that; we will have to look at that and see what it is going to cost.

**Mr. Pope stated the Water Selector will be going before the Board of Commissioners on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Then they can go ahead with the design and get them installed this year.**

**V. NEWTON PLANTATION UPDATE.**

**Commissioner Brown commented he wrote Jim Capp a letter thanking him for meeting with us, telling him that we are doing our due diligence on the private water systems. He commented that Mr. Capp's biggest point that he was adamant about in the meeting was they really prefer that we start taking over the private water systems. Commissioner Brown said he told him to give us the money to help us, or find the federal grants for us, and that is definitely a possibility, but with our money it is going to be very difficult; with the resources that we have. They said they would look at some things and try to figure out what is available. He said that Mr. Pope has offered to give them any data and whatever they need to help them. The letter was a thank you for him and his staff taking the time to meet with us.**

**Mr. Pope commented they had a pretty good meeting that day. Everybody was well represented. Mr. Bodwell asked about the pressure information. Mr. Rapson commented he was not at the meeting. He is being told at the meeting that we said we would provide that information, we discussed it. Of the two owners we are dealing with of the four systems we looked at, they want to review that data before we provide it to EPD. If we end up providing that information for EPD or if these two owners; now the two owners are aware that we have it and EPD has requested it; he said he is not sure how that is going to affect our ability to move forward with evaluating the other private systems. Because, the other owners may say we don't want you evaluating our system. If that is the case, he said he thinks the next step for us he thinks we are just waiting to see how that plays out. Our next step may be just as a Board, to talk about, if we have a water system that is a private system, how would we go about doing that; just game planning is what that looks like. He said he, Mr. Pope and Mr. Davenport would get together and discuss what they think the plan would be. We may not be able to have...in the perfect world he wanted the twelve or thirteen systems all evaluated. He said he is not sure, depending on how this plays out, whether we are going to be able to do that yet. We are waiting to see. Right now, we are just sitting on that task order in regards to moving forward, because all these owners know each other and talk to each other. He said we just need to find out how this plays out first.**

**Mr. Pope said we have an ordinance in place now to assist those systems and they know what is expected of them and what we will do on our end if things should fall into some sort of a crisis really, it is EPD's responsibility to go in and evaluate those systems. He does not know that we really should be evaluating them unless they come to us and say; that is what happened with these systems. We were approached, they wanted to sell them and that was why we evaluated them because they were interested in the possibility of selling them. We said we needed to**

evaluate them to see if it is possible for us. Mr. Rapson stated two of the owners he talked to after one of these meetings basically told him they did not know that they were ever going to allow us on their property to evaluate their system. They did not know why they would. He said he told them we are just trying to do due diligence; we are not try to create problems, but we really need to know. No different than if we have a subdivision that has been final platted; we go out and do inspections on the road and the sidewalks and all that before we take all that responsibility on. He said he needs to know what all your pipes and meters and all that stuff looks like and will it be able to be interfaced with our existing system because they have to meet our standards. Most of these systems are very old, and because they are old, there is a different standard than what our standard is today. He said he would be very surprised to find out that we don't have the same problem in the other systems.

Mr. Pope commented that Commissioner Brown did a good job in telling EPD that very thing. They see the system is in crisis and people's health is in danger, then we will do what we have to do. Other than that, they should really be making those systems do what they are supposed to do to provide safe drinking water.

Commissioner Brown commented after that meeting EPD will be looking very carefully at the systems in the county. The sanitary survey is on the normal schedule to be done very soon. Some of the statements that Rick Jefferies made in the meeting embarrassed EPD; when he was telling about the state of the system when he bought it. EPD was supposed to be in charge of making sure that system was in full compliance and he pretty much told them, it was about as ragged as a water system could get for a subdivision. It was a real eye opener for EPD; he said he thinks we can do testing for pressure without water system permission. We can do that at the home for pressure. Mr. Pope said we test at the road. Mr. Bergen said we do test at the house, too, just to see if there is a problem with their PRV front to back.

Mr. Rapson stated we test our customers at the house. These are not our customers. Mr. Davenport clarified with our customer's permission. Mr. Pope stated they make a request for us to come out when they are having problems. If they are having problems we would say yes, we have 80 psi at the road and you have this at your home, you probably ought to have a plumber come and take a look at your pressure reducing valve.

Commissioner Brown said he thinks you could potentially, based on the data that CH collected and what EPD is doing, he thinks you could have a scenario where the water provider knows that EPD is coming down and they bring it up to a certain level and then they leave and they knock it back down again. That could very well be one of the scenarios. He said he does not think you have half the subdivision complaining about a problem. Generally, if you get one person you can attribute another fifty people who just aren't going to take the time to call you or don't know to call you. When you have half of a group complaining about something you've

probably got a legitimate problem. He said they told EPD in the meeting, when you get these kinds of numbers it is not a fluke, something is going on.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Commissioner Brown announced Water Guardians will be at Lake McIntosh. He said he has to be out of town, but Leah Williams, who has been working with them on the program, is going to take over and manage that project. He said he is sure she will do a fabulous job. There is water in the lake and everything should be good.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT.**

Commissioner Steve Brown made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee July 11, 2018 meeting. Lee Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:25 A.M.

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Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 25th day of July, 2018.

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Lisa Speegle